

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please cancel the paragraphs beginning at page 1, lines 1-13, and insert in place thereof the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 to U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/391,639 entitled "Information Storage and Retrieval using Macromolecules as Storage Media" filed on June 26, 2002, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference.

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The U.S. Government has a paid-up license in this invention and the right in limited circumstances to require the patent owner to license others on reasonable terms as provided for by the terms of Grant No. DMR-0120967 awarded by the National Science Foundation.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.  
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,  
SUITE 140  
TUCSON, AZ 85718  
TEL. 520.882.7623  
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101  
TEL. 603.668.1400  
FAX. 603.668.8567